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Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its seventeenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 59/209, the General Assembly decided that graduation from the least developed country category becomes effective three years after the date on which the Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy to graduate a country from the category and that, during the three-year period, the country remains on the list of least developed countries and maintain the advantages associated with membership on that list,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[1]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",

Recalling also its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007 and 2013/20 of 24 July 2013,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chaps. I and II.

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Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its seventeenth session;[2]

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on accountability for the post-2015 era, in accordance with the theme of the high-level segment of the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council, on the triennial review of the least developed country category, on the monitoring of graduating and graduated countries from the category, on the fine-tuning of the human assets index and on the contribution of official development assistance to the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020;[3]

3. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Angola be graduated from the least developed country category, and recommends that the General Assembly take note of this recommendation;

4. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Committee that Tuvalu be graduated from the least developed country category, and decides to further defer the consideration of this issue to its session in 2018, allowing for the Council to have an opportunity for further consideration of the particular challenges that Tuvalu faces;

5. *Calls upon* the Committee to continue to give due consideration to the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States in the least developed country category and to continue to monitor, on a regular basis, and together with their Governments, the progress of those States that have graduated from the least developed country status, and reaffirms the commitment expressed in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[4] to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States;

6. *Requests* the Committee, at its eighteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2016 session of the Council;

7. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly, as stated in its resolution 67/221 of 21 December 2012, for graduating countries to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

8. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee for Development Policy, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

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[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 13* (E/2015/33).

[3] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.